

**REMARKS**

**Status of the Application**

Claims 1-6 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-5 have been allowed. Claim 6 has been rejected. The present Response addresses each point of rejection raised by the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 101**

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly failing to produce a useful, concrete, and tangible result. Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection.

Claim 6 recites a computer readable recording medium that stores a program. The program causes the computer to function as an apparatus of predicting a shape of a wiring structure. Applicants submit that claim 6 recites statutory subject matter, because section 2106.01 of the MPEP states that:

... a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program is a computer element which defines structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and the rest of the computer which permit the computer program's functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory.

Further, claim 6 recites functional descriptive material. As defined by section 2106.01 of the MPEP, functional descriptive material includes computer programs that impart functionality when employed as a computer component. In contrast, nonfunctional descriptive material includes music, literary works, and data compilations. The program of claim 6 imparts functionality by causing the computer to predict a shape of a wiring structure, which clearly has a practical real-world value.

Section 2106.01 of the MPEP further states that:

When functional descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable medium, it becomes structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium and will be statutory in most cases since use of technology permits the function of the descriptive material to be realized.

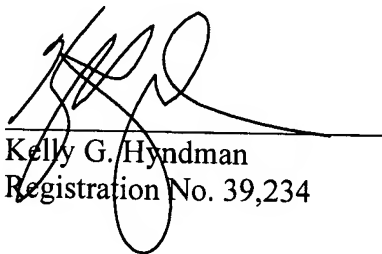
The program of claim 6 is recorded on the claimed computer readable medium and is functionally related to the medium. Causing the computer to predict a shape of a wiring structure allows the function of the program to be realized. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 6 recites statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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